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**BEST WISHES TO TOBIN R. BOENIG
FOR A FULL RECOVERY**

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer best wishes for a full recovery to Tobin R. Boenig, a remarkable young man from Mar-
ion, TX.

I met Toby during the summer of 1994, when he interned in my office. He worked with my staff on numerous projects, including extensive work on agriculture issues. During his brief tenure in my office, Toby earned the respect and admiration of his coworkers through his dedication, responsibility, and hard work.

As a student at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, Toby involved himself in many campus activities. He participated in the student senate beginning his freshman year, and held the position of academic affairs committee chair, speaker pro tempore, and speaker of the student senate. In addition, Toby served on the College of Agriculture and Life Science student council and was a member of the collegiate FFA. He was also an agri-speaker, speaking throughout the Bryan/College Station area about the importance of agriculture and youth leadership. Toby was awarded the Buck Weirus Spirit Award for his contributions to the Texas A&M student body.

This past academic year, Toby served as the student body president of Texas A&M University, representing over 42,000 students to the Texas A&M administration, former students, and the State and Federal Governments. He graduated cum laude from the College of Agriculture and Life Science in May 1996.

Shortly after graduation, Toby was involved in a tubing accident on the Guadalupe River in Texas, leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. In recent weeks, he has made great progress, regaining some feeling in his arms and legs, and the medical team now hopes for a full recovery through long and intensive physical therapy. During this time, Toby has maintained his positive spirit and enthusiasm for which he is known by family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this body of legislators, I would like to send best wishes to Tobin R. Boenig for a speedy and full recovery. He is an extraordinary young man and is an inspiration to us all. Good luck, Toby.

TRIBUTE TO DUNCAN H. KESTER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to Duncan H. Kester, the standing chapter 13 trustee for division 5 of the northern district of California—counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey—on his re-

tirement, effective June 30, 1996, after 29 years of service in that capacity.

Mr. Kester served with the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II as a flight officer-navigator, second lieutenant. After the war, he married Marvis Horgan on February 16, 1946. He is the father of four children, two daughters, and twin sons, and is also a grandfather.

In July 1967, Duncan Kester was appointed to serve as the first chapter XIII trustee in the newly created area 2 commercial district of the northern district of California consisting of the counties of Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey by the bankruptcy referees at the direction of the judges of the northern district of California. After the bankruptcy code was adopted in 1978, Mr. Kester became the standing chapter 13 trustee for divisions 3 and 5 of the northern district of California, consisting of the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey. After the implementation of the United States Trustee Program, Mr. Kester continued his chapter 13 trusteeship with his appointment by the new United States trustee for region 17.

Mr. Kester served as a leader holding a number of offices with the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees [NACTT], including serving as president of that organization in 1975–76. He has appeared frequently as a lecturer at educational seminars before creditors, attorneys, business education students, and commercial associations.

During his long and illustrious tenure as a trustee, Mr. Kester has administered approximately 100,000 cases through which roughly one-half billion dollars was paid by debtors to creditors. Through his office, thousands of debtors have been able to save their homes and property by restructuring their finances in chapter 13 plans. In addition, thousands of small business men and women have been able to continue operating their restructured companies and maintain the employment of their workers by filing chapter 13 plans.

Mr. Kester, known as "Duke" and "Mr. K," to his friends and colleagues, has earned the respect and affection of debtors, creditors, attorneys, and judges, and his employees.

I am proud to have the honor to offer Duncan H. Kester my sincere thanks and gratitude for his many years of exemplary service to our community and ask that my colleagues join me in wishing him a happy retirement.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT
TIMBER CONTRACT EXTENSION
ACT**

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to extend by 15 years the only remaining long-term contract for timber on the Tongass National Forest. The extension was requested by the both Houses of the Alaska State Legislature. It is supported by Alaska's Governor. Democrats and Republicans in Alaska are behind the 15 year extension.

Some may remember that there were two long-term timber contracts when this House

last passed the Tongass Timber Reform Act. There should be two contracts, but at the urging of environmental extremists, the Clinton administration breached one and canceled it in 1994.

This bill is not the ultimate answer to the problems of the Tongass, problems with which this body has dealt too often.

Many may know that I introduced a bill last year that could give power and control over the Tongass to the State of Alaska, but the bill I introduce today is no substitute for H.R. 2413. Ultimately, the Federal political process, Federal bureaucrats, and Federal actions are no way to guide the management of treasures like the Tongass.

Indeed, the fact that I even need to introduce a bill to again attempt a Federal solution for the Tongass—just 5 years after the last Federal legislative solution—is evidence that the State of Alaska by its laws and policies should own and manage the Tongass.

I want to be clear. This bill has nothing to do with expanding clearcutting on the Tongass. The only lands subject to harvesting are those left in the timber base after the past wilderness withdrawals from past acts of Congress. This has nothing to do with the public financing of environmental improvements. The company will finance the improvements itself based on the extended contract. This contract extension is corporate workfare with a fair return to the taxpayers.

The bill I introduce today is needed because the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act, which was passed and signed over my objection, has failed. It failed because 42 percent of the timber economy that was not supposed to diminish after the 1990 act is gone from the Tongass. The remainder of the timber economy—at one time over 4,000 strong—is just hanging on.

With its command and control approach to Federal land management decisions, Washington, DC, has failed Alaskans and those in other States. It has failed because the promise of the land base to support timber has been eroded by administrative action, laws, and lawsuits. The latest administrative proposal is to withdraw an additional 600,000 acres from the land available for timber harvesting. That means more land withdrawn by that single administrative action than has been harvested in the Tongass since 1909. There have been so many failures by the Federal Government regarding laws and decisions on the Tongass and the 75,000 people who live there are tired of it.

One of the most grave Federal failures resulted from the unilateral timber contract modifications—over the objections of contract holders—ordered by the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act. While there is a deep history attached to the long-term contracts in the Tongass, overnight the Federal Government just changed the contract at its whim. It was not because of any environmental or ecological reason. It was with arrogance and the design to stop the very small amount of timber harvesting in the largest national forest.

That was one of several decisions forced onto the Federal Forest Service and is a primary reason that the Alaska Pulp Corp. wanted to begin retooling its facility in Sitka. After they began doing so, their long-term contract was canceled under orders from the Department. It was a blatantly political decision and will end up costing the Federal Government millions of dollars.